

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a computer having a graphical user interface, comprising steps of:  
creating an electronic sticky note having content; and  
attaching the electronic sticky note to a first item such that at least a portion of the  
content of the electronic sticky note is viewable without opening the first item.
2. The method of claim 1, further including steps of:  
detaching the electronic sticky note from the first item; and  
attaching the electronic sticky note to a second item different from the first item.
3. The method of claim 1, further including a step of embedding the electronic sticky  
note in the first item.
4. The method of claim 1, further including steps of:  
detaching the electronic sticky note from the first item; and  
embedding the electronic sticky note in a second item different from the first item.
5. The method of claim 1, further including a step of displaying an icon representing  
the first item, wherein the icon includes an indication of whether the electronic sticky note is  
attached to the first item.
6. The method of claim 1, further including steps of:

displaying an icon representing the first item; and  
displaying an indication associated with the icon of whether the electronic sticky note is attached to the first item.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of displaying the indication includes displaying the indication so as to overlay the icon.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the indication includes at least a portion of the content of the electronic sticky note.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the indication further indicates a type of the content of the electronic sticky note.

10. The method of claim 1, further including a step of displaying the content of the electronic sticky note in response to hovering over the first item.

11. The method of claim 1, further including a step of open the electronic sticky note without opening the first item.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the content of the electronic sticky note includes audio content.

13. A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

14. A method in a computer having a graphical user interface, comprising a step of displaying an electronic sticky note having a user-selectable portion; and  
attaching the electronic sticky note to an underlying item icon in response to the user-selectable portion being selected.

15. The method of claim 14, further including a step of detaching the electronic sticky note from the item icon to which it is attached in response to the user-selectable portion being selected.

16. The method of claim 14, further including a step of visually indicating that the item icon has an attached electronic sticky note.

17. A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 14.

18. A method in a computer having a graphical user interface, comprising a step of displaying an item icon and an indication that an electronic sticky note is attached to the item.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of displaying includes displaying the indication so as to overlay the item icon.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the indication is part of the item icon.
21. A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the step recited in claim 18.
22. A method in a computer having a graphical user interface, comprising steps of:  
browsing to a remotely-generated Internet web page; and  
attaching an electronic sticky note to the Internet web page.
23. The method of claim 22, further including a step of generating and storing locally at the computer associating information associating the electronic sticky note with the Internet web page.
24. The method of claim 23, further including a step of displaying at least a portion of the Internet web page and a visual indication of the electronic sticky note simultaneously, the visual indication of the electronic sticky note being displayed at a location on the Internet web page in accordance with the associating information.
25. A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 22.

26. A method in a computer for allowing an electronic sticky note to be associated with a target, comprising steps of:

a first software component creating a data object representing the electronic sticky note and passing the data object to a drag-drop component;

in response to receiving the data object, the drag-drop component calling a second software component;

the second software component receiving the call and in response determining whether the target is a valid drop target for the electronic sticky note, and generating target status information representing a result of the determination; and

the first software component choosing which of a plurality of indicators to display based upon the target status information.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the data object includes a file path of the electronic sticky note.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the data object specifies the second software component.

29. The method of claim 26, further including steps of:

the drag-drop component notifying the second component that the data object has been dropped over the target; and

the second software component associating the electronic sticky note with the target.

30 The method of claim 26, wherein the second software component is a shell extension.

31. A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions representing a drag-drop software component for attaching electronic sticky notes to items.

32. A method in a computer having a graphical user interface, comprising steps of:  
adding content to an electronic sticky note; and  
after the step of adding, attaching the electronic sticky note to a first item.

33. The method of claim 32, further including a step of detaching the electronic sticky note from the first item.

34. The method of claim 33, further including a step of either attaching or embedding the electronic sticky note to or in a second item different from the first item.

35. A method in a computer having a graphical user interface, comprising steps of:  
adding content to an electronic sticky note; and  
after the step of adding, embedding the electronic sticky note in a first item.

36. The method of claim 35, further including a step of detaching the electronic sticky note from the first item.

37. The method of claim 36, further including a step of either attaching or embedding the electronic sticky note in or to a second item different from the first item.

38. A method in a computer, comprising steps of:  
receiving a first photo file;  
receiving an audio file including audio data; and  
adding the audio data to an electronic sticky note.

39. The method of claim 38, further including a step of attaching the electronic sticky note to the first photo file.

40. The method of claim 38, further including a step of embedding the electronic sticky note in the first photo file.

41. The method of claim 38, further including steps of:  
replicating the first photo file to create a second photo file; and  
attaching the electronic sticky note to the second photo file.

42. The method of claim 38, further including steps of:  
replicating the first photo file to create a second photo file; and  
embedding the electronic sticky note in the second photo file.

43. The method of claim 38, wherein the audio file includes a reference to the first photo file.